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Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Sylvester Ekundayo **Rowe** (Sierra Leone)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe" was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 55/27 of 20 November 2000.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2001, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 October 2001, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 64 to 84, which was held at the 3rd to 11th meetings, from 8 to 12 and from 15 to 17 October (see A/C.1/56/PV.3-11). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 12th to 17th meetings, from 22 to 24 and on 26, 29 and 30 October (see A/C.1/56/PV.12-17). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 18th to 24th meetings, on 30 and 31 October and on 2, 5 and 6 November (see A/C.1/56/PV.18-24).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 15 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/56/60-S/2001/234);

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(b) Letter dated 21 June 2001 from the representatives of Croatia and Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/56/116-S/2001/617).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/56/L.41/Rev.1

5. At the 15th meeting, on 26 October, the representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Yugoslavia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe" (A/C.1/56/L.41/Rev.1).

6. At its 19th meeting, on 31 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/56/L.41/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 7).[1]

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, signed at Helsinki on 1 August 1975,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2]

Recalling further its resolutions 48/84 B of 16 December 1993, 50/80 B of 12 December 1995, 51/55 of 10 December 1996, 52/48 of 9 December 1997, 53/71 of 4 December 1998, 54/62 of 1 December 1999 and 55/27 of 20 November 2000,

Convinced of the necessity of enhancing the overall conflict prevention and resolution capability of the United Nations system and other relevant regional organizations to prevent the outbreak of conflicts,

Emphasizing the crucial importance of the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 on Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and stressing, inter alia, the role and responsibility of the United

[1] The delegation of Cuba subsequently indicated that it did not participate in the consensus.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, supported by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union, and of the Kosovo Force in that regard, as well as of the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1345 (2001) of 21 March 2001 and 1371 (2001) of 26 September 2001,

Commending the significant progress made by the people and the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia towards establishing democracy and the important steps taken to cooperate with the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991,

Recalling the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, and stressing the importance of the implementation of its objectives, with emphasis on regional cooperation,

Noting the importance of the activities of international organizations, such as the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe, as well as the contribution of the Central European Initiative and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, for the implementation of the Stability Pact,

Welcoming the normalization of relations among all States of the Balkan region, and noting, in this respect, the Agreement for the delineation of the borderline between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,[3] signed at Skopje on 23 February 2001, as well as the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Albania and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,

Welcoming also the agreement of 29 June 2001 on succession issues among the States successors to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,

Welcoming further the signing of stabilization and association agreements and/or European agreements between the countries of the region and the European Union and its member States,

Reiterating the importance of the South-East European Cooperation Process and its contribution to security, stability and good-neighbourly relations in South-Eastern Europe, and recalling in particular the Final Declaration and the Action Plan for Regional Economic Cooperation, adopted at the Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the South-East European Cooperation Process, held at Skopje on 22 and 23 February 2001,

Emphasizing the crucial importance of strengthening regional efforts in South-Eastern Europe on arms control, demining, disarmament and confidence-building measures, and concerned that, in spite of the ongoing efforts, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects persists,

Mindful of the importance of national and international activities of all relevant organizations aimed at the creation of peace, security, stability, democracy, cooperation and economic development and the observance of human rights and good-neighbourliness in South-Eastern Europe,

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[3] A/56/60-S/2001/234, annex.

Taking note of the Declaration of Solidarity adopted by the Heads of State participating in the Summit Meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization candidate countries held at Sofia on 5 October 2001,[4]

Reaffirming its determination that all nations should live together in peace with one another as good neighbours,

1. *Reaffirms* the need for full observance of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Calls upon* all States, the relevant international organizations and the competent organs of the United Nations to respect the principles of territorial integrity and sovereignty of all States and the inviolability of international borders, to continue to take measures in accordance with the Charter and the commitments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and through further development of regional arrangements, as appropriate, to eliminate threats to international peace and security and to help to prevent conflicts in South-Eastern Europe, which can lead to the violent disintegration of States;

3. *Reaffirms* the urgency of consolidating South-Eastern Europe as a region of peace, security, stability, democracy, cooperation and economic development and for the promotion of good-neighbourliness and the observance of human rights, thus contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security and enhancing the prospects for sustained development and prosperity for all peoples in the region as an integral part of Europe, and recognizes the role of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union in promoting regional disarmament;

4. *Calls upon* all participants in the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, as well as all concerned international organizations, to continue to support the efforts of the States of South-Eastern Europe towards regional stability and cooperation so as to enable them to pursue sustainable development and integration into European structures;

5. *Calls upon* all States and relevant international organizations to contribute to the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) on Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as well as Council resolutions 1345 (2001) and 1371 (2001);

6. *Rejects* the use of violence in pursuit of political aims, and stresses that only peaceful political solutions can assure a stable and democratic future for South-Eastern Europe;

7. *Welcomes* the signing of the Framework Agreement signed at Ohrid, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, on 13 August 2001, and supports its full and timely implementation by the parties to the Agreement;

8. *Stresses* the importance of good-neighbourliness and the development of friendly relations among States, and calls upon all States to resolve their disputes with other States by peaceful means, in accordance with the Charter;

[4] A/56/466, annex.

9. *Urges* the strengthening of relations among the States of South-Eastern Europe on the basis of respect for international law and agreements, in accordance with the principles of good-neighbourliness and mutual respect;

10. *Recognizes* the efforts of the international community, and welcomes in particular the assistance already provided by the European Union, other contributors and the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe in promoting the long-term process of democratic and economic development of the region;

11. *Stresses* that the rapprochement of the South-Eastern European States with the European Union will favourably influence the security, political and economic situation in the region, as well as good-neighbourly relations among the States;

12. *Stresses also* the importance of regional efforts aimed at preventing conflicts that endanger the maintenance of international peace and security and, in this regard, notes with satisfaction the role of the Multinational Peace Force for South-Eastern Europe;

13. *Emphasizes* the importance of continuous regional efforts and intensified dialogue in South-Eastern Europe aimed at arms control, disarmament and confidence-building measures as well as strengthening cooperation and undertaking appropriate measures at the national, subregional and regional levels to prevent and suppress acts of terrorism;

14. *Welcomes* the adoption, on 18 July 2001, of the Concluding Document of the negotiations under article V of annex 1.B of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina;[5]

15. *Recognizes* the seriousness of the problem of anti-personnel mines in some parts of South-Eastern Europe, welcomes, in this context, the efforts of the international community in support of mine action, and encourages States to join and support these efforts;

16. *Urges* all States to take effective measures against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and to help programmes and projects aimed at the collection and safe destruction of surplus stocks of small arms and light weapons, and stresses the importance of closer cooperation among States, inter alia, in crime prevention, combating terrorism, illicit trade in people, organized crime, drug trafficking and money-laundering;

17. *Calls upon* all States and the relevant international organizations to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the subject of the present resolution;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe".

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[5] See A/50/790-S/1995/999.